

second extracting means for extracting a control command inserted in said electronic mail received by said reception means for controlling a remote timer video recording reservation function of the physically separate video recording device, wherein said control command is added to said electronic mail to reserve an operation time of said physically separate video recording device;

decrypting means for decrypting said certification information extracted by said first extracting means;

certifying means for certifying, by referencing the certification information decrypted by said decrypting means, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;

storing means for storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified by said certifying means to be an authorized user, said control command extracted by said second extracting means; and

control means for controlling said timer video recording reservation function of the physically separate video recording device to reserve an operation time of said physically separate video recording device based on said control command stored in said storing means.

5. (Four Times Amended) A reception method for controlling a video recording device performed without using interior components of the video recording device, the reception method comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network;

a first extracting step of extracting encrypted certification information inserted in said electronic mail received in said receiving step;

a second extracting step of extracting a control command added to said electronic mail to control a reservation function of said video recording device so as to reserve an operation time of said video recording device;

decrypting said certification information extracted in said first extracting step;  
certifying, by referencing the certification information decrypted in said decrypting step, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;  
storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified in said certifying step to be an authorized user, said control command extracted in said second extracting step; and  
controlling said reservation function of said video recording device so as to reserve the operation time thereof based on said control command stored in said storing step.

8. (Four Times Amended) A transmitting/reception system for controlling a video recording device physically separate therefrom, the transmitting/reception system comprising:

input means for generating at least a portion of an electronic mail;  
encrypting means for encrypting predetermined information;  
first addition means for adding, as certification information, the information encrypted by said encrypting means to said electronic mail generated by said input means;  
second addition means for adding a control command to said electronic mail to control a reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof;  
transmission means for transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added by said first addition means and said control command added by said second addition means;  
reception means for receiving said transmitted electronic mail;  
first extraction means for extracting said certification information from said electronic mail received by said reception means;

second extraction means for extracting said control command from said electronic mail received by said extraction means;

decrypting means for decrypting said certification information extracted by said first extraction means;

certifying means for certifying, by referencing said certification information decrypted by said decrypting means, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;

storing means for storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified by said certifying means to be an authorized user, said control command extracted by said second extraction means; and

control means for controlling said reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof based on said control command stored in said storing means.

9. (Four Times Amended) A transmitting/reception method for controlling a video recording device performed without using interior components of the video recording device, the transmitting/reception method, comprising the steps of:

inputting information to generate at least a portion of an electronic mail;

encrypting predetermined information;

a first adding step of adding, as certification information, information encrypted in said encrypting step to said electronic mail generated in said inputting step;

a second adding step of adding to said electronic mail a control command to control a reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof;

transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added in said first adding step and said control command added in said second adding step;

receiving said transmitted electronic mail;

a first extracting step of extracting said certification information from said received electronic mail;

a second extracting step of extracting said control command from said received electronic mail;

decrypting said certification information extracted in said first extracting step;

certifying, by referencing said certification information decrypted in said decrypting step, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user; and

storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified in said certifying step to be an authorized user, said control command extracted in said second extracting step; and

controlling said reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof based on said control command stored in said storing step.

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 12 are pending in this application. Independent Claims 1, 5, 8, and 9 have been cosmetically amended to be more internally consistent and to bring the wherein clause recitations into the body portions of these independent claims without the introduction of any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action includes a repeated erroneous objection to Figure 1 and a repeated erroneous rejection of Claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Naughton et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,881, Naughton) in view of Schneier (E-Mail Security, How to Keep Your Electronic Messages Private) and Simmons<sup>1</sup> (

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<sup>1</sup> The Action erroneously first cites "Simmon" as the author, but latter uses the correct name.